THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) There is a scope to increase area under oilseeds especially under Soyabean, Sunflower, Rapeseed and Mustard through sequential cropping, inter-cropping, replacement of low economy crops and as substitute crop in problematic areas/situations. The area expansion possibilities exist in the State of Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and North Eastern States of the country during Ninth Five Year Plan. However, no area targets have been fixed as yet.

(c) The production target of Oilseeds for the Ninth Five Year Plan, has not yet been fixed by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has so far fixed targets of 26 million tonnes for oilseeds production upto the year 2000 AD.

[Translation]

Closure of Hot Mix Plants

*75. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given orders for the closure of some hot mix plants in Delhi or has given instructions to the Central Pollution Control Board to examine the air pollution caused by these plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of hot mix plants of Delhi examined so far by the Central Pollution Control Board and the findings thereof; and

(d) the action taken so far or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated October 1996 has directed 43 hot mix plants to re-locate/ shift to any other industrial estate in the National Capital Region (NCR). The Court has further directed that these hot mix plants shall close down and stop functioning and operating in the city of Delhi with effect from February 28, 1997.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, has submitted a report in respect of 43 hot mix plants. According to the Report, the process emissions from hot mix plants contain particulate matter and sulphur dioxide besides poly aromatic hydrocarbons, most of which are proven carcinogens. Therefore, as Expert Committee of the CPCB has categorized hot mix plants as hazardous industry.

Many of the hot mix plants belonging to Government as well as the private sector are located near residential areas and, therefore, such installations may pose severe health risk to the inhabitants nearby (Lal Kuan, Rangpuri, Mehrauli, Khyalla). The maintenance of most of the hot mix plants is poor.

The Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi has constituted a "Unified Single Agency" to facilitate shifting/relocations of the hot mix plants. The Agency includes the Chief Secretaries of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi and the Member Secretary of the National Capital Region Planning Board. A "Single Window Service" has also been functioning with the Commissioner of Industries, Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi as Chairman for the benefit of the industries falling under 'B' category and which have been ordered to shift out of Delhi by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

[English]

Project Tiger

*76. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the fund sanctioned and released to different Tiger Reserves during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount of foreign assistance received for the Project Tiger-during each of the last three years;

(c) the increase or decrease in population of tigers and other big-cats so far during the plan period; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the proper preservation and development of Tigers and other wild life in those Reserves during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). Two statements-Statement-I showing the funds released under the "Project Tiger scheme" to various Tiger Reserves during Eighth Five Year Plan and Statement-II giving the specific steps taken by Government for the preservation of tigers in the country, are enclosed.

(b) Two externally aided projects - Forestry Research Education and Extension Project (FREEP) and India Eco-development Project were initiated in 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively. During 1994-95 and 1995-96, an

amount of Rs. 9.59 lakhs and Rs. 0.76 lakhs was released under FREEP. Rs. 194.13 lakhs in 1995-96 was released to different States under India Eco-development Project.

(c) The All India Census of Tigers and Leopards is done once in every four years. The population of tigers and leopards, as estimated during the last two census, are :

	Tiger	Leopard
1989	4334	6767
1993	3750	6828

For lions, the census is carried out once in every five years. The figures in 1990 is 284 and in 1995, is 304.

STATEMENT - I

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No. Name of the Tiger Reserve	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (upto 31.10.96)
1. Corbett (Uttar Pradesh)	29.245	67.7750	57.950	62.860	35.000
2. Palâmau (Bihar)	55.696	54.2000	51.500	62.100	24.000
3. Simlipal (Orissa)	45.693	46.5200	69.385	50.125	17.000
4. Kanha (Madhya Pradesh)	61.301	65.8900	65.385	76.873	35.000
5. Manas (Assam)	38.836	36.3821	42.325	55.650	—
6. Sariska (Rajasthan)	45.700	50.5210	45.500	52.485	31.500
7. Ranthambhore (Rajasthan)	46.779	55.2700	51.085	61.285	31.625
8. Bandipur (Karnataka)	24.397	35.1960	46.750	60.330	—
9. Sunderbans (West Bengal)	30.615	36.5860	36.930	45.705	16.000
10. Melghat (Maharashtra)	44.147	36.7130	44.475	45.363	20.000
11. Periyar (Kerala)	46.862	46.7300	16.673	28.065	16.000
12. Indravati (Madhya Pradesh)	20.871	23.2430	32.350	15.000	—
13. Namdhapa (Arunachal Pradesh)	27.274	32.0080	34.540	35.874	—
14. Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh)	28.485	23.9400	32.604	33.780	20.000
15. Valmiki (Bihar)	—	—	—	—	12.250
16. Nagarjunasagar (A.P.)	20.076	25.2700	26.381	27.360	08.000
17. Buxa (West Bengal)	37.525	47.7220	50.610	44.460	19.000
18. Kalakadmundanthurai (TN)	29.630	40.8650	29.120	24.480	14.000
19. Pench (Madhya Pradesh)	6.920	28.0760	45.905	28.056	03.100
20. Tadoba-Andhri (Maha.)	—	—	18.635	06.900	08.000
21. Banhavgarh (Madhya Pradesh)	—	7.8950	8.985	12.050	—
22. Dampa (Mizoram)	—	—	—	13.450	08.360
23. Panna (Madhya Pradesh)	—	—	—	09.000	—
Total	642.052	760.8021	797.998	841.241	318.835

STATEMENT - II

(i) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, has been banned by law.

(ii) Special measures for protection and conservation of tiger, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.

(iii) A network of 441 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 80 National Parks covering 1,48,000 sq. km. has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. The Govt. of India have also launched the "Project Tiger" and "Project Elephant" in the years 1973 and 1991 respectively to give impetus to the conservation of these wild animals. Financial assistance is provided by the Central

Government under various centrally sponsored plan schemes, including the Project Tiger and Project Elephant Schemes, for development of National Parks and Sanctuaries on request from the State Governments.

(iv) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife animals reaches them.

(v) International Trade in Endangered Species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The trade in ivory is totally banned.

(vi) Regional and sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

(vii) International coordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards etc. Training programmes on wildlife enforcement and implementation were also conducted for all these organisations at New Delhi and Dehradun during, 1995.

(viii) A "Tiger Crisis Cell" has been set up in the Ministry to suggest improvement in the management of tiger bearing areas of the country.

(ix) The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.

(x) Steps are being initiated to set up "Special Strike Force" in the Project Tiger areas.

(xi) A Protocol has been signed with the Govt. of Peoples' Republic of China to coordinate bilateral issues concerning tiger conservation and to check smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body; and

(xii) Steps have been initiated by the Government to establish the 'Global Tiger Forum' for strengthening international cooperation to curb poaching of tiger and to coordinate efforts for the conservation of tiger and its habitat throughout the tiger range countries.

Translation]

Subsidy on Export

*77. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will ıe Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are providing any subsidy to the small farmers whose products are exported to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that this subsidy is cornered by the middlemen instead of the farmers; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that this subsidy reaches the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (d). No subsidy is provided to small farmers, whose products are exported to other countries. However, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) provides financial assistance to exporters including farmers who are registered as exporters with APEDA.

[English]

Scrapping of Articles 356 and 249

*78. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received suggestions from Jammu and Kashmir Government and other State Governments regarding scrapping of Articles 356 and 249 of the Constitution of India; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) and (b). During the second meeting of the Inter-State Council held on 15th October, 1996, divergent views ranging from amendment of article 356 to its abolition were expressed. No views were expressed in the said meeting about the scrapping of article 249. However, the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, while speaking on article 356, said the following in regard to article 249 :

> "In 1984 our duly elected Government was dismissed by the former Governor and soon thereafter he felt no constraint in issuing ordinances one after the other. It was he who recommended to the President of India (during the President's rule) to apply article 249 of the Constitution of India. The Governor had no authority or mandate to take such a major step. He had no Council of Ministers to advise him and surely he could not have exercised any legislative authority as a Governor under President's Rule...I cited this example to show how far Governor can go in dislodging a duly elected Government and then run the administration as his personal perceptions dictate".